

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 00506 01 OF 02 211322Z

42

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11

AECE-00 OMB-01 /164 W

----- 034970

P R 211202Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1295

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0048

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 0506

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING JANUARY
18, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE VIENNA MBFR NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED
FORMALLY THIS WEEK WITH A PLENARY MEETING ON 17 JANUARY.
AT THAT SESSION, THE SOVIETS PRESENTED A BRIEF STATEMENT,
WHOSE BASIC POINT WAS THAT DURING THE DECEMBER RECESS, THE
EAST HAD REASSESSED THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AND HAD FOUND
IT STILL WANTING. THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED THE STATEMENT
WHICH THE CANADIAN REP DELIVERED AT THE JAN 17 PLENARY,
ESTABLISHED A MILITARY DATA SUBGROUP, AND APPROVED A PAPER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENNA 00506 01 OF 02 211322Z

ON TACTICS TO BE FOLLOWED WITH THE EAST IN THE NEXT PERIOD.

A NUMBER OF BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH EASTERN REPS TOOK PLACE DURING THE WEEK. IN THESE CONVERSATIONS, SOVIET REPS SHOWED THEMSELVES IN A COOPERATIVE MOOD, READY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATING ON MORE SPECIFIC SUBJECTS AND FOR MORE INTENSIVE INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, BUT WITHOUT SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOVIETS, WHO CLAIM TO BE UNDER PRESSURE ON THIS POINT FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WARSAW PACT, THERE WILL BE TWO PLENARIES NEXT WEEK, WITH ONLY THE POLISH DELEGATE SPEAKING AT THE TUESDAY PLENARY. END SUMMARY.

2. JAN 17 PLENARY. SOVIET REP KHLESTOV DELIVERED THE FIRST PLENARY STATEMENT FOR THE EAST AT THIS ROUND OF THE VIENNA TALKS. IN A SHORT, RATHER PERFUNCTORY PRESENTATION, HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF "BUSINESSLIKE COOPERATION" AND OUTLINED THE ADVANTAGES OF THE WARSAW PACT'S PROPOSAL. ACCORDING TO KHLESTOV, THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE "EXISTING REALITIES" IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND WOULD NOT ALTER THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES WHICH HAS KEPT THE PEACE IN EUROPE IN PAST YEARS. THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAD CAREFULLY RESTUDIED THE WESTERN PROPOSALS AND HAD DECIDED THAT "IN THEIR PRESENT FORM" THE WESTERN PROPOSALS, UNLIKE THE EASTERN ONES, WOULD VIOLATE THE PRINCIPLE OF "UNDIMINISHED SECURITY" ON WHICH ALL PARTIES HAD AGREED. KHLESTOV CALLED ON ALL PARTICIPANTS TO "REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS" TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACING THE NEGOTIATIONS. CANADIAN REP GRANDE FOLLOWED WITH A MORE DETAILED STATEMENT WHICH ARGUED THE ADVANTAGES OF THE WESTERN PHASE I PROPOSAL OVER THE EASTERN ONE.

3. AD HOC GROUP. THE GROUP CAME CLOSE TO FINAL APPROVAL OF A PAPER ON TACTICS TO BE PURSUED IN THE NEXT WEEKS AFTER WORDING CHANGES WERE MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE BRITISH, WEST GERMAN, AND ITALIAN DELEGATIONS. THE BRITISH DELEGATION WAS ONLY ABLE TO GIVE ITS AD REF AGREEMENT TO THE DRAFT, ALTHOUGH IT EXPECTED NO DIFFICULTY WITH LONDON. FRG REP BEHREND WAS UNEASY ABOUT SINGLING OUT THE BUNDESWEHR TO THE SOVIETS IN CONNECTION WITH PHASE II REDUCTIONS, FEARING THAT DOING SO MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE SOVIETS TO SEEK NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS, AND HE PRESENTED LANGUAGE INTENDED TO DIMINISH THIS EFFECT. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENNA 00506 01 OF 02 211322Z

DISCUSSION OF THE TACTS PAPER ALSO ELICITED DISCUSSION OF ISSUE OF WHAT STEPS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A PHASE I AGREEMENT AND THE BEGINNING OF PHASE II. THE ITALIAN REP, WHO TENDS TO CONSIDER HIMSELF A CHIEF GUARDIAN OF THE INTERESTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, INSISTED THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD COMMIT THEMSELVES TO COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I IN FULL BEFORE PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING EUROPEAN FORCES COULD START.

4. BILATERALS. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF THE WEEK WERE VARIOUS ALLIED BILATERAL CONVERATIONS WITH SOVIET DEL MEMBERS. THE CONVERSATIONS HAD TWO RECURRING THEMES: THE SOVIETS MENTIONED THE NECESSITY OF FINDING SOME COMMON GROUND SO THAT REAL NEGOTIATING COULD BEGIN, STATED THIS COULD NOT BE DONE EFFECTIVELY IN EITHER PLENARIES OR OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUPS, AND THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BEST BE ADVANCED THROUGH SYSTEMATIC INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS APPEARED TO DRAW BACK FROM EARLIER STATEMENTS THAT THE SYSTEM OF EMISSARIES TRIED OUT IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS, WITH TWO OR THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH SIDE PARTICIPATING IN INFORMAL BUT ORGANIZED DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER, SHOULD BE REINSTITUTED. TOWARD THE END OF THE WEEK THE SOVIETS WERE VARIOUSLY SAYING THAT THE DEVICE OF OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED EMISSARIES WAS PREMATURE, SINCE NO SPECIFIC TOPIC HAD YET BEEN AGREED ON WHICH EMISSARIES COULD WORK, AND THAT EMISSARIES WERE NOT CALLED FOR IF THE SUBJECT MATTER WERE TO BE RESTRICTED TO US-SOVIET REDUCTIONS. SOVIET REP ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY WERE HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THEIR ALLIES AS TO WHICH OF THEM SHOULD BE SELECTED FOR SUCH A ROLE. IN CONSEQUENCE, THEY INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR INFORMAL SOCIAL GATHERINGS.

5. IN A CONVERSATION WITH DUTCH REP QUARLES ON 15 JANUARY, THE SOVIET REP SAID THE TWO SIDES MUST WORK OUT A COMMON APPROACH AND SET IN MOTION A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE SUBJECT MATTER. ADMITTING THE NECESSITY FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS NOW, HE COMMENTED THAT HE WAS AGAINST OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUPS SINCE PARTICIPANTS IN THEM WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO GO BEYOND THEIR BRIEFS. KHLESTOV NOTED THAT PLENARIES WOULD STILL BE NECESSARY FOR PUBLICITY. THE SOVIET REP ALSO ARGUED AGAINST THE WEST'S DISPARITY CLAIM, MENTIONING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 VIENNA 00506 01 OF 02 211322Z

A 7 JANUARY TELEVISION APPEARANCE OF DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER IN WHICH HE HAD MENTIONED THE EXISTENCE OF A BALANCE OF FORCES IN EUROPE. KHLESTOV STRESSED THE SOVIET POSITION THAT WEST EUROPEAN FORCES MUST BE INCLUDED IN REDUCTION SCHEMES FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE WEST EUROPEANS WERE NOT READY TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES, BUT INSTEAD WERE WAITING TO SEE HOW DEFENSE COOPEATION TOOK SHAPE. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE WEST GERMAN AND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 00506 02 OF 02 211232Z

53

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11

AECE-00 OMB-01 /164 W

----- 034533

P R 211202Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1296

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 49

AMEMBASSY SOVIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 0506

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

BRITISH WILLINGNESS TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES.

6. UK REP ROSE, SPEAKING TO AMBASSADOR SMIRNOVSKY ON 15 JANUARY, FOUND HIM IN A FRIENDLY AND NON-POLEMICAL MOOD. SMIRNOVSKY'S BASIC THEME WAS THE ABSURDITY OF OMITTING NUCLEAR AND AIR FORCES FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS. US REP SAW KHLESTOV AND KVITSINSKIY ON 17 JAN TO TALK PRIMARILY ABOUT THE FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES. KHLESTOV SAID HE THOUGHT PLENARIES SHOULD BE CONTINUED, THAT HE WAS AGAINST OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUPS, AND THAT HE WAS RELUCTANT TO INSTITUTE A FORMAL EMISSARY SYSTEM AT THIS TIME, PREFERRING INSTEAD INFORMAL LUNCHEON AND DINNER GATHERINGS. THURNING TO THE FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES, KHLESTOV SAID THAT THE EASTERN DELEGATIONS HAD DECIDED THAT THESE MEETINGS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE HELD AT THE RATE OF TWO A WEEK. KHLESTOV STATED THAT THE EASTERN DELEGATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENNA 00506 02 OF 02 211232Z

THOUGHT THAT MAINTAINING THE PLENARIES AT THE TWO-A-WEEK RATE

WAS A GOOD WAY TO PRESENT TO THE PUBLIC, PRESS, AND CAPITALS
THE APPEARANCE OF CONTINUED HARD WORK.

7. ASSESSMENT. SOVIET REPS ARE MAKING AN EFFORT TO APPEAR
AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE WHILE GIVING AWAY NOTHING OF THE
SUBSTANCE OF THEIR POSITION. THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL PROBABLY
DEVELOP IN THE DIRECTION OF SYSTEMATIC BUT INFORMAL DISCUSSION
GROUPS. HOWEVER, DIFFICULTIES CAN BE EXPECTED WITH THE SMALLER
ALLIES CONCERNING PRECISE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING WITH THE
EASTERN SIDE INFORMALLY. WHILE THE BELGIANS ARE NOT VIGOROUSLY
PRESSING THE IDEA OF OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUPS SINCE IT
SEEMS TO BE A NON-STARTER WITH THE SOVIETS, THE TURKS ARE
NOT HAPPY WITH THE EMISSARY SYSTEM AND INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS
WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND THAT ALLOW FOR SOME PARTICIPATION
BY THE SMALLER NATO COUNTRIES AND YET ARE STILL EFFECTIVE.
TWO PLENARY SESSIONS A WEEK WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE HELD
FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. HUMES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENNA00506
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740126/aaaaaypf.tel
Line Count: 240
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <11 APR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 18, 1974
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005